

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)

Libraries at University of Nebraska-Lincoln

September 2020

Role of LIS Professionals to provide authentic information sources during COVID-19 a Pandemic crisis

Kanu Chakraborty Mr

Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), Varanasi, India, kchakraborty.lib@iitbhu.ac.in

Parvin S L Kureshi Miss

Central Water and Power Research Station, Pune, India, parvin.kureshi123@gmail.com

Sagar B. Gajbe Mr

Indian Statistical Institute- Bangalore, India, sagar@drtc.isibang.ac.in

Navin Upadhyay Dr

Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), Varanasi, India, nupadhyay.lib@iitbhu.ac.in

Dalimi Devi Dr

Arya Vidyapeeth College, Guwahati, India, dalimi_sur@yahoo.co.in

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Chakraborty, Kanu Mr; Kureshi, Parvin S L Miss; Gajbe, Sagar B. Mr; Upadhyay, Navin Dr; and Devi, Dalimi Dr, "Role of LIS Professionals to provide authentic information sources during COVID-19 a Pandemic crisis" (2020). *Library Philosophy and Practice (e-journal)*. 4180.
<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/libphilprac/4180>

Role of LIS Professionals to provide authentic information sources during COVID-19 a Pandemic crisis

Abstract

During the national crisis, caused by a novel pandemic such as COVID-19 virus infections, people need authentic information to face such a virus. Libraries need to come forward in such a situation as primary sources of trustworthy information by providing rapid and easy access to those seeking authentic information sources. In this crisis, giving Remote Access, Virtual Library, e-resources, Ask the Librarian reference services to the user in real-time and at scale for a range of scientific- and policy-related responses can be very significant to the academic and research community. The present study has collected data from authentic information sources, mainly Government official portals of Indian states such as the MyGov COVID-19, UTs, and National/International agencies, etc. After analyzing and studying the data, the authentic information sources served to the research community are listed out. This paper also highlights the ratio of COVID-19 publications and highly cited publication of the same, using the Scopus abstracting databases. This study is an original research work focused on the roles and responsibilities and actions taken by the Library and librarians in crisis situations. Hence this study will help Librarians, Information Providers, Practitioners, Policy Makers, Researchers, and development activity in this field.

Keywords: COVID-19, Coronavirus, Authentic information sources, Librarian role in crises.

Introduction

As libraries are dealing with information generation to the dissemination process, it definitely deals with the global crisis like Coronavirus (COVID-19) of 2020. In such a scenario, it is challenging to give services to the users and to manage the natural process of information dissemination. Therefore, to cope up with this situation, librarians can take the initiative to promote their online service to the users. Because we are now living in the Internet age, with a single click user can get ample information. But it is very tough to recognize the authentic information sources from fake. Hence the roles of librarians are vital in information society for providing trustworthy information sources to the users.

While it's fascinating to view these pandemic related closures as much-needed downtime, librarians don't have that leisure. Society still needs librarians. In fact, users who have not utilized library services in years want libraries boredom-breaking services and librarian's long-trusted guidance, too. This is the best opportunity to market libraries and its online services now, for three

reasons: 1. Guide users regarding what is available online and how to use it; 2. being the authentic source of information that users expect; 3. Proving librarians value retaining funding after the crisis. Overall we can say that only librarians can reach the users' satisfaction regarding information sources and online services in such a predicament. While working from home, start to promote services and products so the users can get exact information on their desk without spreading rumors about the crisis (Dempsey, Kathy 2020, <https://www.library20.com/page/crisis> accessed on 25/03/2020).

The 2019–20 coronavirus pandemic is an ongoing pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The outbreak was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei, China, in December 2019, and was recognized as a pandemic by the World Health Organization (WHO) on 11th March 2020. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic, accessed on 25/03/2020). Over the past ten years, a series of health risks, including the Swine Flu in 2009-2010, the SARS outbreak in 2003, then after that high-risk Ebola virus in 2014-2016, MERS virus in 2015, has concentrated the public attention on the required authentic sources of information about how to deal with such risks. <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/history-of-pandemics-deadliest/> accessed on 31/03/2020).

In such situations, research and development activities should not be stopped, so every institution or organization and academic institution is trying to make their Library openly accessible to their scientists and users. So as library professionals, we must guide our users towards authentic sources of information about the COVID-19. This paper will focus on the authoritative information resources about COVID-19 published on the Government official website. Also, it highlights the scholarly research papers published by the research community using the Scopus database.

Review of Literature

The literature review is an essential step in every research activity. The research scholars have collected research materials from Emerald & Elsevier Databases and online resources. Zach has surveyed fifty largest US city libraries to find out that most of the libraries and librarians used Web 2.0 tools to provide information services to their patrons in the crisis time of H1N1 influenza in 2009 and also required the training to prepare librarians to respond to the information needs of their patrons. (Zach, Lisl 2011)¹⁵. However, Soehner, has defined crisis are "bed bugs," found all over the world, by the late 1800s and 1900s. In such risk conditions, Social Media can be used to keep people up to date about the crisis and can also be used to collect information about the solutions that may rectify the crisis (Soehner, Catherine 2017)¹¹. Also, Braunstein has suggested that the functions of acquiring knowledge up to disseminating processes can be made more urgent

during a crisis. Also, he has stated that libraries can function as intuitional supporters, collection managers, information disseminators, internal planners, community supporters, government partners, educators and trainers, and information community builders. (Braunstein, S. G et al, 2012)¹. Liu has done a situation-specific pilot survey study, and recommendations are made that could help libraries proactively create risk communication strategies using social media for effective information services. (Liu, Jingjing et. all, 2017)⁶. However, Winston has pointed out that less focus on information access, despite the impact of war and terrorism on library collections and resulting legal and policy decisions related to access to information (Winstone, M. D 2005)¹⁵. After going through various literature, it is necessary to identify public information needs and serve them. Director of media relations for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2001, commented, "People feel comforted by the truth even when it is not what they want to hear." (Zach, Lisl 2011)¹².

Objectives of the study

The primary aim of this study is to provide authentic sources of information about COVID-19 to the scientific community and people in India. This study also highlights the role and responsibility of the LIS professionals towards the scientific community in this pandemic situation. The following specific objectives are formulated to achieve the target of the present research study:

- To find out authentic information resources.
- To find out the scientific publication trends on COVID-19.
- To study MyGov.in/COVID-19 portal (Official website of GOI).
- To study the role and responsibility of LIS professionals in such conditions (COVID-19) towards research society.

Methodology

In this study, we have visited all states and union territory's (UT) government website/portal to collect factual data related to COVID-19, published by the respective States and UTs Governments. To examine the scientific publication on COVID-19 from January 2020 using popular Web of Science, Scopus, Google Scholar, Academia.edu-share, ResearchGate open/closed access platform. To know the action taken by the Indian Libraries (academic and public) in these situations, the researcher has visited many library websites to get the information and also had a telephonic conversation with the Librarians. Microsoft Word and MS-Excel have been used for data analytics and interpretation.

Authentic information sources and discussion

In table 1 & table 2, we have provided all 29 states and 9 UTs wise office details, which publishes information about COVID-19. Details like organization name and brief description about

what they have published on the official website and their helpline number are included in the tables. Most of the state governments publish COVID-19 information on their state official portal, some states upload on the Department of Health & Family Welfare Mission website, and some on the state National Health Mission website. Also, some states have created a new portal for COVID-19. We have found in various states the District collector office web portal published various information about coronavirus along with district-level helpline number.

All the information provided by the states on COVID-19 is more or less the same. They have provided information regarding precautions to be taken for the coronavirus, guidelines for coronavirus, along with a travel advisory to its citizens, and office notes. Some states provide help regarding how to identify and things to do and avoid preventing coronavirus. Some state Government websites provide information to stop its spread and guidelines for its citizens.

Table no. 1 State-wise authentic source of information about COVID-19.
(Offices website & helpline Number)

States	Name of the office	Brief Description	Web Link (URL)	Helpline Number
Andhra Pradesh	Commissionerate of Health & Family Welfare Mission Directorate, National Health Mission	A dedicated portal by the Department of Health and Family Welfare of the Andhra Pradesh State Government. It provides information regarding precautions to be taken for coronavirus and also publishes all office orders about the COVID pandemic that has been uploaded.	http://cfw.p.nic.in/	0866-2410978
Arunachal Pradesh	Government of Arunachal Pradesh Official State portal	The government of the Arunachal Pradesh Official State portal provides guidelines for coronavirus along with a travel advisory to its citizens and office notes.	http://www.arunachalpradesh.gov.in/	9436055743
Assam	Government of Assam, Secretariat	State Government website providing information regarding COVID 19 like safety measures,	https://sad.assam.gov.in/documents-	6913347770

	Administration	precautions, and various notices regarding coronavirus.	<u>detail/orders-regarding-preventive-measure-to-arrest-spread-of-covid-19-corona-virus</u>	
Bihar	Government of Bihar official website	State official portal has given news alert regarding the prevention of COVID-19.	<u>http://gov.bih.nic.in/</u>	104
Chhattisgarh	Department of Health & Family Welfare & Medical Education	It provides advisories, guidelines to prevent COVID-19, and other viruses.	<u>http://www.cghealth.nic.in/cghealth17/</u>	104
Goa	Official Website of Government of Goa	It provides guidelines, along with a travel advisory to its citizens Helpline numbers are listed, along with emails. Contact details of relevant officials are listed. Circulars regarding Tourists and other office orders are released.	<u>https://www.goa.gov.in/covid-19/</u>	104
Gujarat	Official Gujarat State Portal	State web portal which releases important news regarding Gujarat state including information regarding COVID 19	<u>https://gujaratindia.gov.in/media/news.htm</u>	104
Haryana	National Health Mission, Haryana	It provides the daily status regarding coronavirus also advisories from the government.	<u>http://www.nhmharyana.gov.in/page.aspx?id=208</u>	8558893911

Himachal Pradesh	Department of Health & Family Welfare	It provides a set of orders passed by the administration regarding COVID-19 and precautions and emergency details.	https://himachal.nic.in/index.php?lang=1&dpt_id=19	104
Jharkhand	Official website of the State	Helpline numbers are listed on this portal. Some guidelines, advisories are also released. It redirects to the Department of Health Research Website of the Government of India.	https://www.jharkhand.gov.in/	104
Karnataka	Karnataka State Govt	COVID-19 circulars, advisories, guidelines, and IEC materials are released. A COVID-19 dashboard is provided for Karnataka, and list of home quarantined people along with their address is provided	https://karnataka.gov.in/hfw/kannada/Pages/covid-19.aspx	104
Kerala	Directorate of Health Services,	Public, Information, Daily Bulletin, Advisory, Guidelines, Video Gallery, Poster & Banners are published on this portal	http://dhs.kerala.gov.in/public-health-2019-n-corona-virus/	0471-2552056
Madhya Pradesh	Directorate Of Health Services, Government of Madhya Pradesh	It provides a set of orders passed by the administration regarding COVID-19 and precautions to measure details.	http://health.mp.gov.in/en	0755-2527177
Maharashtra	National Health Mission	This is the Maharashtra state website for the National Health Mission. It has published an information booklet to inform the citizens about COVID-19 in Marathi.	https://www.nrhm.maharashtra.gov.in/Booklet.pdf	020-26127394

Manipur	Official website of Manipur State	Notifications, advisories and press releases regarding COVID 19 are published on the official portal.	https://manipur.gov.in/?page_id=16984	3852411668
Meghalaya	Meghalaya State Government	It provides notifications, advisories, and announcements made by the State and the central government.	http://meghalayaonline.gov.in/covid/login.htm	108
Mizoram	Government of Mizoram	News regarding COVID-19 is released and an emergency helpline as well, also precautions details have been uploaded.	https://dipr.mizoram.gov.in/post/covid-19-chungchanga-mipui-hnena-chief-minister-thuchah-2632020	102
Nagaland	Directorate of Health & Family Welfare, Government of Nagaland	COVID-19 related news is released on this portal for the people of Nagaland.	https://nagaland.health.nagaland.gov.in/	7005539653
Odisha	COVID-19 Registration Portal, Government of Odisha	Guidelines and necessary steps taken are published on this health portal. Citizens can register themselves if they have returned from abroad.	https://health.odisha.gov.in/index.html	9439994859
Punjab	Department of Health and Welfare	A web portal by the Department of Health and Welfare of Punjab State Government. Guidelines and necessary steps taken are published.	http://pbhealth.gov.in/	104
Rajasthan	State Government of	A state-level website which provides a do's and don'ts	https://www.rajasthan.gov.in	0141-2225624

	Rajasthan, Official Website	regarding the coronavirus.	ov.in/Pages/default.aspx	
Sikkim	Official Website of Government of Sikkim	COVID-19 related news is released on this portal for the people of Sikkim.	https://sikkim.gov.in/	104
Tamil Nadu	National Health Mission, Tamil Nadu	District website to educate people regarding COVID-19.	http://www.nrhmtn.gov.in/	044-29510500
Telangana	Indian Institute of Health and Family Welfare	This website has guidelines, advisories, and awareness related information that has been provided.	https://covid19.telanganagov.in/	104
Tripura	Department of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of Tripura	COVID-19 related news is released on this portal like precaution, office notes, order, etc.	https://health.tripuragov.in/	0381-231-5879
Uttarakhand	Official Website of the Department Of Medical Health And Family Welfare Government Of Uttarakhand	Novel CoronaVirus Guidelines, instruction, office orders advisories have been published here by the Uttarakhand State government.	http://health.uk.gov.in/pages/display/140-novel-corona-virus-guidelines-and-advisory-	104
Uttar Pradesh	State Government Official website	The website has provided link of COVID-19, MyGov link, Government of India	https://www.mygov.in/covid-19/	18001805145
West Bengal	West Bengal State Government	West Bengal State Government website to provide information about Novel Coronavirus and how to stop its spread. It provides guidelines for its citizens.	https://www.wbhealth.gov.in/pages/corona/guideline	180031344422 / 03323412600

**Table no. 2 Union Territories (UTs) wise authentic source of information about COVID-19.
(Offices website & helpline Number)**

States	Name of the office	Brief Description	Web Link (URL)	Helpline Number
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Andaman and Nicobar Islands government	A government website that releases news regarding COVID 19	https://www.andaman.gov.in/	03192-232102
Chandigarh	Chandigarh Government	The Chandigarh official portal, It informs its citizens regarding COVID-19.	http://chandigarh.gov.in/	9779558282
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Union Territory government	It is a web portal for Dadra and Nagar Haveli and provides information regarding coronavirus.	http://dnh.nic.in/	104
Daman and Diu	U.T. Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu. Government of India.	This official portal has provided guidelines and precautions about coronavirus.	https://daman.nic.in/covid19.aspx	104
Delhi	Government of Delhi, Health portal.	Delhi State Health Government guidelines and steps taken are published here.	http://health.delhi.govt.nic.in/	011-22307145
Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu & Kashmir Official Portal	People arriving from COVID-19 affected countries can report about their status on the helpline number they have provided.	https://jk.gov.in/jammukashmir/?q=content/govt-orders	01912520982 / 0194-2440283
Ladakh	Union Territory government	The government orders released by the Government of Ladakh	https://ladakh.nic.in/#orders	1982256462

		can be found here.		
Lakshadweep	Lakshadweep	The regulations regarding COVID-19 are published here.	https://lakshadweep.gov.in/notice/the-lakshadweep-epidemic-disease-covid-19-regulations-2020/	104
Puducherry	Union Territory government	Union Territory of Pondicherry releases information regarding coronavirus and Government order on this portal.	https://www.py.gov.in/	104

National / International Organizations

Table no. 3, provides various National and International Organizations/agencies' office details, which publishes information on COVID-19. Details like organization name and brief descriptions about what they have posted on the official website are included in the table. Globally, all national and international agencies are worried about the pandemic; all are trying to provide information about the coronavirus, how to prevent, guidelines, and also support the various nations economically and offer medical equipment to prevent the pandemic. Various international labs have started research to make vaccines on coronavirus. They have provided information globally.

Table a no. 3 National and International authentic sources of information about COVID-19. (Official website)

Country	National / International Organizations	Brief Description	Web Link (URL)
USA	Centre for Disease Control (CDC)	CDC is a national public health institute of the United States.	https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html
USA	CoronaVirus.gov	A US government website for coronavirus related information and guidelines	https://www.coronavirus.gov/

India	Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)	the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination, and promotion of biomedical research	https://icmr.nic.in/content/covid-19
United Kingdom	International Maritime Organization (IMO)	It is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for regulating shipping.	http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/HotTopics/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx
India	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	This is the govt website for Indian citizens. It provides regular updates regarding the changing situation in India about the novel coronavirus	https://www.mohfw.gov.in/
India	My Gov, GOI	It provides guidelines, advisories for coronavirus. It also has a list of Helpline numbers the advisories for all the states and Union territories in India	https://www.mygov.in/covid-19
India	National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)	National Centre for Disease Control is an Institute under the Indian Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It researches epidemiology and control of communicable diseases.	https://ncdc.gov.in/index4.php?lang=1&level=0&linkid=127&lid=432
India	National Health Portal	It provides healthcare-related information to the citizens of India and serves as a single point of access for consolidated health information	https://www.nhp.gov.in/disease/communicable-disease/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov
India	News Services Division	The news services division of India publishes all information regarding coronavirus.	http://newsonair.nic.in/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=383688

India	Press Information Bureau (GoI)	Press Information Bureau disseminates information to the print, electronic, and new media on government plans, policies, program initiatives, and achievements. It recently clarified the misconceptions regarding COVID-19 among the people with a post.	https://pib.gov.in/newsite/pmreleases.aspx?mincode=31
USA	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is a critical player in child health initiatives. The organization spends the majority of its non-administrative budget on promoting health initiatives and prioritizes the needs of the world's most vulnerable children.	https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/covid-19
USA	World Bank	As a leading institution for investments in health and development, the World Bank plays a critical role in shaping global health policy.	https://www.worldbank.org/
Geneva	World Health Organization (WHO)	The World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health.	https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

Scientific research trends on COVID-19

According to (Cynthia Liu et al, 2020.), the new disease and its causative virus have drawn significant global attention since the outbreak of COVID-19. "Scientists and physicians worldwide have been conducting a major campaign to understand this new emergent disease and its epidemiology to uncover possible treatment regimens, discover effective therapeutic agents, and develop vaccines." We have seen rapid growth in scientific research publications on coronavirus

since January 2020. We have used the keywords "COVID-19"," COVID," and "Coronavirus". As of 31st March 2020, we have found total 652 publications.

It is interesting to note that 84% of the papers published in open access or free access journals/magazines are covered by subject areas Medicine, Immunology, and Microbiology. Most of the articles are published in BMJ Clinical Research Ed, Lancet, and Journal of Medical Virology. China (219) is at the top position among countries producing research papers on COVID-19, followed by US (119) and UK (66), whereas India published only 11 research papers as of 31st March 2020. Larger areas explored about clinical manifestations, treatment options, virus structure, virus transmission mechanisms/dynamics, as well as an experiment of antiviral agents. These trends reflect immense interest and desire from the scientific community, including academic, industrial organizations, clinicians, R & D, to find out new methods to halt the progression of this epidemic disease and to prevent infection and transmission in the future.

COVID-19 (MyGov.in/covid-19) official portal of Government of India

COVID-19 website has been published by the Government of India (GOI) to provide information about coronavirus to the citizens. All necessary steps taken by the Government of India (GOI) to prevent the challenge of the growing pandemic of coronavirus are published on this site. The most important factor in preventing the spread of the virus locally is to empower the citizens with the right information and taking precautions as per the advisories being issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India.

The websites provide how many passengers were screened at airports, active COVID-19 cases, cured/discharged/ migrated cases, death cases in India. They also upload important information about Corona –Virus, provide national helpline numbers (+91-11-23978046 or 1075) and also a link for States and National Territories helpline numbers. The government published quarantine guidelines & lockdown details information for each state and UTs. The government introduced various activities related to coronavirus:

- Prepare, don't Panic! Give your ideas & suggestions to help fight against Coronavirus (Ideate to combat coronavirus),
- COVID-19 solution challenge (Innovate to fight COVID-19)
- Join the war against COVID-19 (Register as COVID-19 volunteer)
- #StayAlertStaySafe, govt lunches 'AAROGYA SETU APP', a Bluetooth-based, COVID-19 tracker.

The website also published the various video to alert people like, "Know the right way to wash your hands,"; "Watch Mr. Amitabh Bachchan sharing his thoughts on Coronavirus" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=10&v=OFFg21KhOV0&feature=emb_logo) and "Coronavirus Symptoms." The website visualizes the state-wise statistics graph on COVID-19, how

many people have been affected, total confirmed cases, death and cured/discharged/migrated. The government continues uploading various information & advisory for COVID-19 on this website.

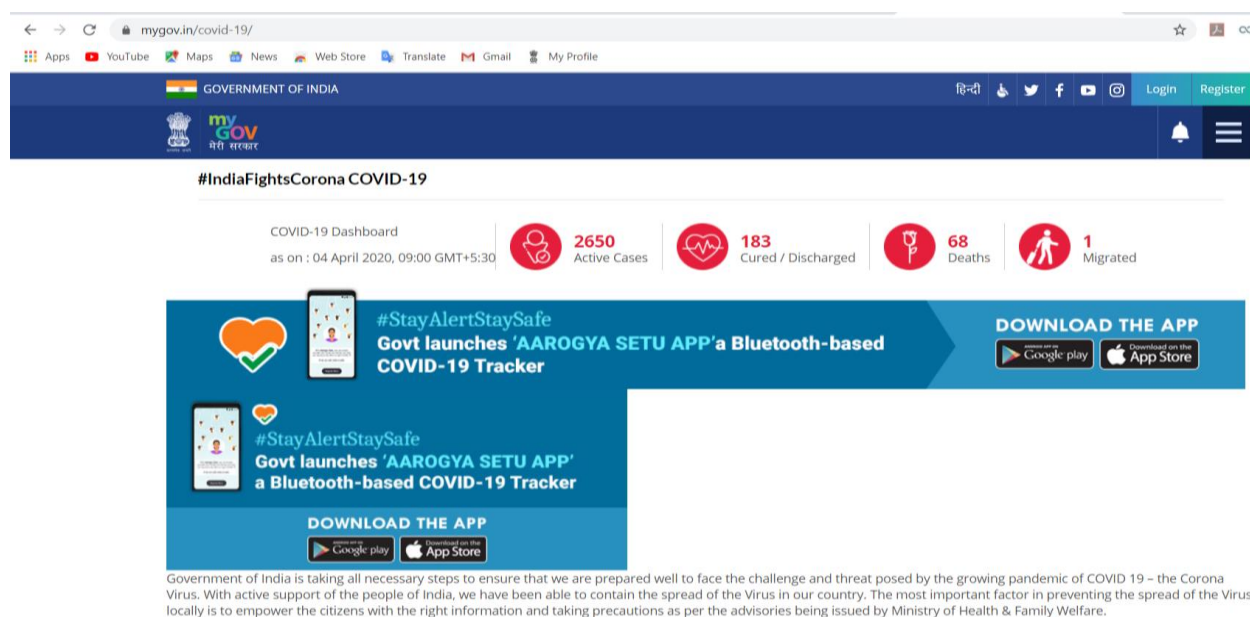


Figure 1: COVID-19, official website of government of India (<https://www.mygov.in/covid-19/> accessed on 4th April 2020)

Role and responsibility of LIS professionals in during COVID-19 pandemic

Libraries and the LIS professionals can play an active part during this pandemic even though the nations are in lockdown or crisis. According to a WHO report, we are not just facing an epidemic, but also "Infodemic", which refers to an overabundance of information, some of which is genuine while some of it is not (World Health Organization, 2020). There are a plethora of websites, social media posts, images, videos that are spreading fake news.

According to Wineberg, LIS professionals can play major role in crisis. Librarian can be take intinitive to provide proper information sources to their users and take up the challenge of stopping this spread of fake news via Whatsup, Facebook, Tweeter, etc. librarian can create maximum awareness about the online/ virtual teaching and learning tools such PG Pathshala and Byju's learning tool. Which may help both teachers as well as the students to connect with each other. A librarian can provide various type of virtual services to the users in such crisis situations as they follow:

- They can teach their users to verify the authenticity of the websites or people or communities who are posting such news. Lateral Reading (Wineberg et al., 2017)¹³, a technique that requires verifying the sources using various other websites and based on them judging if the site is genuine.

- The Library should assure their patrons if some of their resources are due, they can be re-issued online or can be returned once the Library reopens. Many libraries are already implementing this.
- The Library can provide a list of resources or point them in the direction of these resources. Like the information about the journals publishing research related to COVID-19 and whether these journals are accessible to their users. Other than these, libraries can also consider making the research publication and the datasets coming out of their institutes about COVID-19 publicly available.
- In the National Lockdown condition, a librarian has to make the resources available to its users, and it can be achieved by using remote access and opening all resources (including thesis & Dissertation) for the patron. Also able to provide some services using the internet such as reference services, Information service, referral service, etc.
- The academic fraternity can also able to conduct online classes and courses such as Moodle, Zoom, Swaym, Swaym Prabha, and Google classroom and conduct video-based study discussions among users using open source software such as Google Hangouts, etc.
- They can point out to the users some online courses which can be either COVID-19 related or regarding the ongoing academic courses. Library professionals can help in making the necessary software such as and available for the students and teachers.
- Librarians can request the publishers to open their research publicly for a few months because all libraries do not have the remote access facility. Also, many publishers (Springer Nature, IEEE, etc.) have already provided remote access to their users who do not have the facility.
- Public libraries can also take some steps to create awareness among their users or people regarding COVID-19. Collecting resources like videos, interviews, tips, do's and don'ts, etc. for their users so that they can keep themselves safe, Provide a link to the home pages of trustworthy sources like Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India, and WHO websites to provide more information to their users.
- Public Libraries can also help to identify scams and frauds, which are prevalent during the times of such pandemic. To help create awareness among the people in general, public libraries can organize some competitions like poster creations for COVID-19.
- Public library librarians can also list out publicly available educational resources with hyperlink of authentic sources such as Google Books, Internet Archive, Online Public library for all age groups (store books, drama books, religious and biography, etc.). Public libraries can also provide contact information for local health services, officials, etc.

Libraries are an authentic source of information, so the librarian can play their role in the crisis. In pressing times like this, where countries are placing their citizens under lockdown, various academic institutes, corporate offices, government offices are shut down to prevent the spread of COVID-19. At times like these, when the patrons of the libraries cannot reach up to the Library, the Library has to reach its users. Also, provide authentic and related valid resources and continuing the library facility to its user's community.

Conclusion

We are aware that all academic and public library systems are being closed in various countries and territories, including India, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Libraries and Information institutes need to come forward in such a situation as primary sources of authentic information resources play an essential role in the research community according to the needs of the information seeker. Knowing the research trends on the current topic is one of the curiosities of any researcher. As the Scopus database is a well-known database in indexing and abstracting, we used Scopus for data collection. COVID-19, the official page of the government of India, provided all information on coronavirus and guidelines. To prevent this pandemic government initiated various programs like "Prepare don't Panic! Give your ideas & suggestions to help fight against Coronavirus" (Ideate to combat coronavirus), "COVID-19 solution challenge" (Innovate to fight COVID-19), etc. Various Library and LIS professionals play an active role in the research community to provide library facilities in multiple ways so that no impact arises on their research on this nation lockdown situation. The contribution of the librarian is remarkable; in the various studies, we have found a librarian plays a vital role in all circumstances, and they are always ready to help the society.

References:

1. Braunstein, S. G., Ryan, J., & Hires, W. (2012). Academic libraries in crisis situations: roles, responses, and lessons learned in providing crisis-related information and services. *Crisis Information Management*, 175–191. doi:10.1016/b978-1-84334-647-0.50016-3.
2. Chi Chiu, Leung, et al. (2020). Mass masking in the COVID-19 epidemic: people need guidance. *The Lancet* (Editorial), vol 395, 10224, p945. ([https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30520-1.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(20)30520-1.pdf) Retrieved on 24/03/2020).
3. Cynthia Liu, Qiongqiong Zhou, et al. (2020). Research and Development on Therapeutic Agents and Vaccines for COVID-19 and Related Human Coronavirus Diseases. *ACS Central Science* **2020** 6 (3), 315-331 DOI: 10.1021/acscentsci.0c00272.

4. Garrett, Laurie (2020). The art of medicine: COVID-19: the medium is the message. The Lancet (Editorial), Vol 395 Feb. 22, 2020 (www.thelancet.com).
5. Jacobs, J. A., Jacobs, J. R., & Yeo, S. (2005). Government Information in the Digital Age: The Once and Future Federal Depository Library Program. The Journal of Academic Librarianship, 31(3), 198–208. doi:10.1016/j.acalib.2005.02.006.
6. Liu, J., Tu-Keefner, F., Zamir, H., & Hastings, S. K. (2017). Social Media as a Tool Connecting with Library Users in Disasters: A Case Study of the 2015 Catastrophic Flooding in South Carolina. Science & Technology Libraries, 36(3), 274–287. doi:10.1080/0194262x.2017.1358128
7. Luo, L., & Park, V. T. (2013). Preparing public librarians for consumer health information service: A nationwide study. Library & Information Science Research, 35(4), 310–317. doi:10.1016/j.lisr.2013.06.002.
8. N.A . (2020). The pandemic question (2020). Nature ,vol 579, pg. 7. ()
9. N.A. (2020). COVID-19: fighting panic with information, The Lancet (Editorial), Vol 395,10224,p537 ([https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30379-2.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(20)30379-2.pdf) Retrieved on 24/03/2020).
10. Shuler, J. A. (2002). Librarians go to war. The Journal of Academic Librarianship, 28(1-2), 59–62. doi:10.1016/s0099-1333(01)00297-x.
11. Soehner, C., Godfrey, I., & Bigler, G. S. (2017). Crisis Communication in Libraries: Opportunity for New Roles in Public Relations. The Journal of Academic Librarianship, 43(3), 268–273. doi:10.1016/j.acalib.2017.03.003
12. Westbrook, L. (2008). Understanding Crisis Information Needs in Context: The Case of Intimate Partner Violence Survivors. The Library Quarterly, 78(3), 237–261. doi:10.1086/588443
13. Wineburg, S., & McGrew, S. (2017). Lateral Reading: Reading Less and Learning More When Evaluating Digital Information. SSRN Electronic Journal. doi: 10.2139/ssrn.3048994.
14. Winston, M. D., & Quinn, S. (2005). Library leadership in times of crisis and change. New Library World, 106(9/10), 395–415. doi:10.1108/03074800510623083
15. Zach, L. (2011). What Do I Do in an Emergency? The Role of Public Libraries in Providing Information During Times of Crisis. Science & Technology Libraries, 30(4), 404–413. doi:10.1080/0194262x.2011.626341.

Website:

1. Dempsey, Kathy 2020, <https://www.library20.com/page/crisis> Accessed on 23/03/2020
2. https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=10&v=OFFg21KhOV0&feature=emb_logo accessed on 01/04/2020.

3. MyGov.in <https://www.mygov.in/covid-19/?cbps=1&target=webview&type=campaign&nid=0>
Accessed on 25/03/2020.
4. Visualizing the History of Pandemics <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/history-of-pandemics-deadliest/> accessed on 31/03/2020.
5. WHO - <https://www.who.int/csr/don/archive/year/2020/en/> Accessed on 25/03/2020.
6. Wikipedia- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019%E2%80%9320_coronavirus_pandemic accessed on 31/03/2020.